

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for carrying articles in a load deck of an open deck vehicle, the load deck being defined by a floor, side walls, and a tailgate, the apparatus comprising:

5       a front panel defining an upper edge and a lower edge;  
          a top panel extending transversely from the upper edge of  
the front panel, the front and top panels at least partially  
defining an enclosed space therebetween;

10      a mount extending from the front panel within the enclosed  
space; and

      a bracket comprising a first portion secured to the mount,  
and a second portion extending towards the lower edge of the  
front panel, the second portion being attachable to a load deck  
of a vehicle for attaching the apparatus to the load deck,  
15 whereby the load deck further defines the enclosed space.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top panel  
comprises side portions extending transversely from opposite ends  
of the upper edge of the front panel, thereby defining an opening  
20 between the side portions for accessing the enclosed space.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the top panel further  
comprises a removable cover panel disposed between the side  
portions.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein at least one of the side portions and the cover panel include a tongue or groove for supporting the cover panel between the side portions.

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5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the side portions and the cover panel include cooperating tongues and grooves for slidably inserting the cover panel between the side portions.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the cover panel is movable from a closed position substantially covering the enclosed space and an open position for providing access to the enclosed space via the opening.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the side portions comprise mounts for attaching to side walls of a load deck of a vehicle.

20 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the mounts comprise side panels extending from the side portions generally towards the lower edge of the front panel, the side panels comprising apertures for receiving fasteners therethrough for attaching to side walls of a load deck of a vehicle.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cage secured to the base such that the cage defines a cage compartment above the top panel.

5 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the cage comprises a plurality of legs extending into a portion of the top panel for supporting the cage above the top panel.

11. An apparatus for carrying articles in a load deck of an  
10 open deck vehicle, the load deck comprising a floor, side walls,  
a tailgate, and a cover at least partially enclosing a portion of  
the load deck, the apparatus comprising:

first and second frame portions, each frame portion  
comprising one or more legs extendable through the cover, each  
15 leg comprising a connector for securing the leg to the cover; and  
one or more side frames extending between the first and  
second frame portions, thereby defining a cage compartment.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a top  
20 frame portion extending between top edges of the first and second  
frame portions, thereby enclosing a top of the cage compartment.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein at least one of the side frames comprises a releasable frame that is releasably connected to the first and second frame portions.

5 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the releasable side frame is connected to the first and second frame portions by a release pin.

10 15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising one or more locks for preventing respective release pins from being released, thereby securing the releasable side frame segment to at least one of the first and second frame portions.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a cover attachable to a load deck of a vehicle, the cover comprising a front panel and a top panel extending transversely from the front panel, the cover comprising one or more holes for receiving the legs therein for securing the first and second frame portions to the cover.

20 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein each leg comprises a protrusion for limiting insertion of the leg into a respective hole in the cover.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the connector comprises a hole through the leg and a fastener receivable through the hole.